



# LINCOLN CHAFEE

## U.S. SENATOR

### RHODE ISLAND

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## CHAFEE PRAISES BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

*Commission votes to add 531 Jobs to Newport Naval Station*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – With the conclusion of hearings by the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) immanent, U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today praised its recommendation to add 531 military and civilian defense related jobs to the Newport Naval Station in Newport, RI. Senator Chafee was pleased to work with Governor Carcieri, members of the Rhode Island delegation, as well as the BRAC commission and the secretary of the Navy during this process.

“The Base Closure and Realignment Commission’s decision to not only preserve but add jobs to Newport Naval Station is a testament to its importance as a center of undersea warfare research and development, as well as being a home to many of the Navy’s prized educational schools,” Senator Chafee said. “The decision to add a substantial number of jobs in Newport will not only have tremendous benefit to Rhode Island’s local economy, it will also ensure our military’s naval capabilities remain outstanding,”

“As the state’s lone Republican representative, I made every effort to protect Rhode Island through this process, up to and including opening the door of any Administration official who needed to be contacted.” He continued, “While a lot of work went into ensuring Rhode Island put its best foot forward, in the end the case was easy to make: Rhode Island’s military installations are top notch.”

Chafee began his efforts to protect Rhode Island’s defense establishment in the 2005 BRAC round as soon as he was appointed, including opening an office in Newport in order to be in closer contact to the defense community. He also testified at the regional hearing held in Boston, Massachusetts on July 6, 2005.

He has worked with Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld, former Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, acting Deputy Secretary of Defense (and Secretary of the Navy) Gordon England, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for acquisition John Young, Principal

Deputy Assistant Navy Secretary for Facilities and Installations Wayne Arny, and Admiral Szemborski, the Principal Deputy Director for program Analysis and Evaluation, among others, in behalf of Rhode Island's defense installations.

"I am very pleased that the BRAC has recognized the value and importance of Newport's military institutions. In a round where many states face difficult closure recommendations, I am very happy Rhode Island did so well."

The Commission will submit the final report on September 8, 2005, when it will then go to the President and Congress for approval.

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